
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO PERFORM AN AUDIT ON THE USE OF
GEOGRAPHIC EXCEPTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
INCLUDING REPORTING ON EQUITY IMPLICATIONS BASED ON THE
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE AUDIT.

1 WHEREAS, students in Hawaii benefit from a variety of
2 learning experiences; and
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4 WHEREAS, public schools offer a wide array of options for
5 students and families, including career academies; performing-
6 arts programs; farm-to-school programs; and courses in science,
7 technology, engineering, and math; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has prioritized a
10 focus on individual school design, which positions each school
11 to provide a unique approach to learning opportunities; and
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13 WHEREAS, despite these educational options within the
14 public schools, families often report frustration with the
15 current system of geographic exceptions, based on a perception
16 that parents with means and connections are able to gain an
17 unfair advantage through the process for their children; and
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19 WHEREAS, additional information is needed to provide
20 greater transparency and display the current and historical use
21 of geographic exceptions, categorized by geography, family
22 demographics, and reasons provided for applications being denied
23 or approved; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
27 2019, that the State Auditor is requested to perform an audit of
28 the Department of Education's practices related to the use of
29 geographic exceptions; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit include the
2 following:

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- 4 (1) An analysis of the historical use of geographic
5 exceptions that reaches back at least 10 years from
6 the present school year;
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- 8 (2) Disaggregated data categorized by schools that gained
9 and lost students; family demographics, such as
10 ethnicity; special education services needed; and the
11 reasons provided for applications that were approved
12 or denied;
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- 14 (3) A compilation of the dates of submission for
15 geographic exceptions by parents with receipt by
16 school, examining how many days prior to or after the
17 March 1 deadline submissions were received, the number
18 of days within which schools needed to respond, and
19 whether a written appeal was completed or accepted;
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- 21 (4) How other states administer geographic exception
22 programs; and
23
- 24 (5) A report on equity implications based on the
25 information contained in the audit; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Auditor is requested
28 to submit a report of the Auditor's findings and
29 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
30 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
31 Regular Session of 2020; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the State Auditor, Chair of the
35 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and marks]

HR HMS 2019-1012

JAN 30 2019

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